



Anacostia Park News

Alternative Concepts for Anacostia Park – for Public Review and Comment

The National Park Service (NPS) has developed two alternatives for future management of Anacostia Park - one of Washington, D.C.'s largest and most important recreation areas. Consistent with the establishing legislation for Anacostia Park, its purpose, and significance, the two alternatives each accomplish the long-term goals for the Park. NPS has crafted the alternatives drawing from its understanding of the Park's natural and cultural resources, combined with public input received at previous GMP community meetings and from activities associated with the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative. NPS is now seeking public comment on the two alternatives, prior to moving onto the next step in the GMP planning process (see page 8 for dates and times).

Elements Common to Both GMP Alternative Concepts

- Providing experiences that commemorate the Park's role in American history and its integral position as a Gateway to the Monumental Core of the Nation's Capital, with the focus of these activities at Poplar Point
- Restoring the ecosystem, consistent with regional planning efforts to restore water quality in the Anacostia River
- Offering visitors access to the river for recreational boating, with the focus of these activities at Boathouse Row and Buzzard Point
- Enhancing access to and through the Park by taking better advantage of existing Metro access, by improving vehicular access within the Park, and by improving the trail system (including connections to the larger Riverwalk planned in the District of Columbia and Maryland)

GMP Alternative Concept 1

In this alternative, emphasis would be placed on providing residents of Metropolitan Washington with a wide range of passive and active recreation opportunities. The management focus would be on smaller scale facilities to meet the demand for sports league play, small group special events, and individuals seeking outdoor recreation and nature-based recreation within the City. There would also be enhanced opportunities for environmental education involving local school groups and special programs for youth.

Alternative Concept 1 and Alternative Concept 2 are graphically illustrated on the maps included in this newsletter. The alternatives express each concept through Management Zones. A total of 26 Management Zones are proposed, and are included with the maps. These zones define the desired visitor experiences and resource conditions within the Park and establish the kinds of activities or facilities within each zone that will achieve the targeted conditions. Each alternative is a combination of several management zones. Neither alternative uses all of the zones, and the locations where zones are applied vary in each alternative.

GMP Alternative Concept 2

In this alternative, emphasis would be placed on development of specialized recreation facilities within the Park. The management focus would be on providing opportunities for local recreation as well as large-scale regional recreation events. Facilities would be constructed to meet regional demands with concentrated visitor use within three park subareas: Poplar Point, Fairlawn/Twining, and Kenilworth Park.

ANACOSTIA PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN PURPOSE

The National Park Service is charged with maintaining an up-to-date general management plan (GMP) for each unit of the National Park System. The GMP is the first phase of a tiered planning process. By ensuring that each park has a clearly defined direction for resource preservation and visitor use, a park's GMP serves as the basic foundation for decision making. During general management planning, resource values and land uses are systematically analyzed, and alternative courses of action and their impacts are explored. To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related legislation, an environmental impact statement is prepared for all GMPs.

The new GMP for Anacostia Park will describe the general path that the National Park Service will follow in managing Anacostia Park for the next 10 to 15 years. It will identify site-specific uses and facilities, but will not guarantee funding for implementation.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN SCHEDULE

Development of the new GMP began in the spring of 2002. Since then NPS has completed the initial steps in the GMP process, focused on understanding the planning context, identifying issues, and analyzing existing conditions. Next phases of work include:

- **SUMMER 2003** - Identification of Management Alternatives
- **EARLY FALL 2003** - Evaluation of Management Alternatives
- **LATE FALL 2003** - Preparation of the Draft GMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- **WINTER 2004** - Preparation of the Final GMP and EIS

NPS will provide opportunities for public comment prior to selection of the preferred GMP Alternative and during the review period for the Draft GMP/Environmental Impact Statement.